

ILLEGIB

...us reached \$1 billion annually.
The balance has dwindled since.

before we left (Peking, ...)

PUEBLO CASE CITED

Apology urged to free four in China

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The State Department was urged today to seek release of four Americans in jail in China by apologizing to the People's Republic of China (Peking) for their alleged espionage activities.

Dr. Jerome Cohen, professor of law and director of East Asian legal studies at Harvard, made the appeal. He called attention to the American apology to get the Pueblo crew returned. He said the case against those men was not nearly as precise as against the Americans held in China.

Dr. Cohen made his appeal at an appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee which is holding four days of hearings on American China policy, especially the issue of which China is to be seated at the United Nations.

Chairman J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., promised the committee's staff would investigate the cases of the imprisoned Americans and that he would then see whether the com-

mittee wished to appeal to the State Department for reconsideration of the problem.

Dr. Cohen said he was a personal friend of one of the prisoners — John Downey, 39, of New Britain, Conn., who is serving a life sentence. Mr. Downey was Dr. Cohen's roommate in college.

Dr. Cohen said he had devoted much time in digging into the cases of Mr. Downey and the other three and that he was persuaded the facts were as the Chinese Communists alleged.

Dr. Cohen had been arguing before the committee for more contacts with Peking. He urged that this was one that should have high priority. The cases of the prisoners have been raised periodically at the American-Chinese ambassadorial talks at Warsaw. But the United States denies the espionage charges and claims the men strayed by mistake into the air over Chinese territory.

Dr. Cohen believes the new "climate" in Peking towards the United States makes this a proper time for the U.S. government to concede they were on espionage missions in the interest of getting the men released.